

701—126.7 (421,441) Discovery and evidence.

126.7(1) *Discovery procedure.* Discovery procedures applicable in civil actions under the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure are available to parties in cases before the board. Unless lengthened or shortened by these rules, the board or presiding officer, time periods for compliance with discovery shall be as provided in the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure.

126.7(2) *Discovery motions.* Prior to filing any motion related to discovery, parties shall make a good-faith effort to resolve discovery disputes without the involvement of the board or presiding officer. Any motion related to discovery shall allege that the moving party has made a good-faith attempt to resolve the discovery issues involved with the opposing party. Opposing parties shall be given the opportunity to respond within 10 days of the filing of the motion unless the time is shortened by order of the board or presiding officer. The board or presiding officer may rule on the basis of the written motion and any response or may have a hearing or other proceedings on the motion.

126.7(3) *Evidence.*

a. Admissibility. The presiding officer shall rule on admissibility of evidence and may take official notice of facts in accordance with all applicable requirements of law. Evidence obtained in discovery may be used in the case proceeding if that evidence would otherwise be admissible in that proceeding.

b. Stipulations. Stipulation of facts by the parties is encouraged. The presiding officer may make a decision based on stipulated facts.

c. Scope of admissible evidence. Evidence in the proceeding shall be confined to the issues contained in the notice from the board prior to the hearing, unless the parties waive their right to such notice or the presiding officer determines that good cause justifies expansion of the issues. Admissible evidence is that which, in the opinion of the board, is determined to be material, relevant, or necessary for the making of a just decision. Irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded. A finding shall be based upon the kind of evidence on which reasonably prudent persons are accustomed to rely for the conduct of their serious affairs, and may be based upon such evidence even if it would be inadmissible in a jury trial. Hearsay evidence is admissible. The rules of privilege apply in all proceedings before the board.

d. Exhibits, exhibit and witness lists, and briefs. The party seeking admission of an exhibit must provide an opposing party with an opportunity to examine the exhibit prior to the ruling on its admissibility. Copies of documents to be used as evidence, exhibit lists, and a list of witnesses intended to be called at hearing shall be served on the opposing party at least 21 calendar days prior to the hearing, unless the time period is extended or shortened by the board or presiding officer or the parties have entered a scheduling order under rule 701—126.6(421,441). All exhibits and briefs admitted into evidence shall be appropriately marked and be made part of the record. The appellant shall mark exhibits with consecutive numbers. The appellee shall mark exhibits with consecutive letters.

e. Objections. Any party may object to specific evidence or may request limits on the scope of examination or cross-examination. Such an objection shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the grounds upon which the objection is based. The objection, the ruling on the objection, and the reasons for the ruling shall be noted in the record. The presiding officer may rule on the objection at the time it is made or may reserve a ruling until the written decision.

f. Offers of proof. Whenever evidence is ruled inadmissible, the party offering that evidence may submit an offer of proof on the record. The party making the offer of proof for excluded oral testimony shall briefly summarize the testimony or, with permission of the presiding officer, present the testimony. If the excluded evidence consists of a document or exhibit, it shall be marked as part of an offer of proof and inserted in the record.

126.7(4) *Subpoenas.*

a. Issuance of subpoena for witness.

(1) An agency subpoena shall be issued to a party on request. The request shall be in writing and include the name, address, and telephone number of the requesting party. In absence of good cause for permitting later action, a request for subpoena must be received at least 10 days before the scheduled hearing.

(2) Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, parties are responsible for service of their own subpoenas and payment of witness fees and mileage expenses.

b. Issuance of subpoena for production of documents.

(1) An agency subpoena shall be issued to a party on request. The request shall be in writing and include the name, address, and telephone number of the requesting party. In absence of good cause for permitting later action, a request for subpoena must be received at least 20 days before the scheduled hearing.

(2) Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, parties are responsible for service of their own subpoenas.

c. Motion to quash or modify. Upon motion, the board or presiding officer may quash or modify a subpoena for any lawful reason in accordance with the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure.

[ARC 2108C, IAB 8/19/15, effective 9/23/15]